

FANCIES OF FIDDLERS.

SOMETHING ABOUT THE VIOLINS OF FAMOUS MAKERS.

How Amateurs Are Deceived by Dealers. Imitation "Strads" That Ought Not to Fool Anybody—Forging Fine Fiddles. Instruments Used by Some Experts.

If poor old Antonio Stradivari could come to life again and see the thousands of violins now bearing his label, I feel sure the old gentleman would be sent once more to his grave with shame and mortification. The same could be said of the several Guarneri, chief of whom was Joseph (del Gesù), and likewise of Amati, Bergonzi, Ruggieri, Stainer, Guadagnini, Gagliano, Maggini and many others.

For many years the manufacturers of common fiddles in Germany, which sell in the United States at from \$7 to \$30, have labeled them "Stradivari," "Guarnerius," etc. Yet they must know that any one acquainted with the merits and value of the violins of these two great makers would not buy them for such, and if they are made for farmers, sailors and cowboys, or for a class who never heard of either Stradivari or Guarnerius, the manufacturers must know that the labels of these two and other great makers do not help to sell them. Yet they continue to make them and paste in these labels ad libitum.

PITFALLS FOR AMATEUR BUYERS.

This is not so serious a grievance, however, for the price asked generally indicates the character of the violin, but what is really in the way of one desiring to purchase a fine violin made by any of the Brescia, or Cremona, or even French, German or English makers, is the traffic in labels practiced so much today by European dealers, and were it not that we have in New York some fine judges of violins who do not go by labels, many artists and amateurs in this country and city would have fallen victims to the practices of the many dishonest dealers throughout Europe.

There are hundreds of violins in this city alone made probably by makers contemporaneous with the Cremona makers, who imitated their more skillful brethren, which are bought for and labeled as coming from the workshop of the great makers. There are also several so called "Strads" in this city and throughout the world for which large—in fact, enormous—sums have been given, the genuineness of which is doubted by able and competent critics.

There are hundreds of fine violins throughout Europe and America which have a genuine Stradivari or Guarnerius or Amati top or back, and the rest is either imitated or made up of other old violins by Italian makers.

There are thousands of fine old violins, Italian, French, German, Tyrolean, etc., both in Europe and America, which cannot possibly be identified as having been made by any particular maker, no matter how good the expert may be. If you want to hear "differences of opinion" borrow a violin and go to the scores of dealers and makers in this city and it will repay you, for unless it has a very prominent and marked characteristic of some maker you will most probably have no two opinions alike. This is not intended to reflect on their judgment, but simply to show the difficulty of placing or attributing the many old violins of today.

FORGERIES IN FIDDLERS.

I have seen and heard many of those nameless violins which were finer in tone, both as to power and quality, than many of the Amati, etc., really authenticated, and for which five times the price had been paid. I have seen old Italian violins, beautifully modeled, well made and of superb tone, labeled "Guarnerius Amati," and even "Stradivari," and attributed to these makers ten or fifteen years after they were dead, and some as having been made by them several years before they were born. So the question naturally arises, how can one tell or who can tell a real "Strad" or a Guarnerius or an Amati or a Ruggieri or a Bergonzi or a Maggini or a Gagliano or a Sanctus Seraphino or a Montagnana or a Gasporo da Salò?

No one can tell a "Strad" if he has never seen one. Knowledge must be based on having seen not only one, but several, all "Strads" are not alike. Indeed one must be familiar with all the great and authenticated "Strads" now extant to be an expert, for there are many resembling each other. There are no two alike. The eye must be cultivated to know them, as an expert in painting knows a Corot, or a Daubigny, or a Vibert, and so thoroughly versed in the minute characteristics of the constituent parts of the violin as to detect a fine imitation from a real one, to say nothing of the superb varnish used by the Cremona makers, the manufacture of which is yet a lost art, notwithstanding the many so called discoveries of its secret.

And in the same way only can the violins of the other great makers be known, identified and distinguished from the really fine imitations of today and of the past. Therefore, to be familiar with the works of the great makers in minute detail one must travel, see and study the great violins of the world in the hands of collectors, artists and amateurs.

It may interest many "fiddlers" to know that Paganini played on a noble specimen of a Joseph Guarnerius and now owned by the city of Genoa, to whom he willed it. Sivori plays on a copy of this violin by Vuillaume, a noble instrument, for which, it is said, he has refused \$2,000. The immortal Joachim plays on a "Strad," or I should say on "Strads," for he owns several of them.

Sarasate also plays on a "Strad." Wilhelm plays on a Lupo and a "Strad," and I have also heard him play on a Gemund. Mme. Norman-Neruda uses the famous "Strad" left to her by Ernst.

—New York Herald.

Her Love.

"Emeline," he said earnestly, "is your love deep and founded upon the rocks?"

"Yes, George, I think it is. You know I have always loved saddle rocks better than any other kind."—Epoch.

The Verdict Unanimous.

W. W. Sult, Druggist, Bippis, Ind., testifies: "I can recommend Electric Bitters as the very best remedy. Every bottle sold has given relief in every case. One man took six bottles, and was cured of Rheumatism, ten years' standing." Abraham Martin, Druggist, Belleville, Mo., affirms: "The best selling medicine I have ever handled in my 20 years' experience is Electric Bitters." Thousands of others have added their testimony, so that the verdict is unanimous that Electric Bitters do cure all diseases of the Liver, Kidneys or blood. Only a half dollar a bottle at Budwell & Christian's Drugstore.

Turgeneff's Dinners.

A habit of Turgeneff, says The Fortnightly Review, was to invite friends to dinner and be absent when they came, not deliberately of set purpose, but because of the little value he set on his pledged word and the very faint impression it used to make upon his mind. He once invited the famous critic Belinsky and five others to dine with him at his house in the country, where he had a chef de cuisine whom he looked upon as a genius. "I will organize a banquet for you the like of which you never dreamed of," he said.

He fixed the day and made each person give his word of honor that he would come. "Don't fear for us," remarked Belinsky. "We shall be there without fail, but you must not repeat the trick that you played upon us last winter, when you asked us to dine and were not at home when we came; but, lest you should forget your invitation, I shall write to you the eve of the day of our arrival."

It was a sultry day when the whole six of us set out for Pargolovo in an open calèche at 11 o'clock in the morning, says one of the persons invited. We were thoroughly fatigued by the heat and dust of the road. Arriving at Turgeneff's country house, we alighted with joy in our countenances, but we were all struck with the circumstance that Turgeneff did not come out to meet us. We knocked at the door of the glass terrace.

The silence of death reigned in the house. All our faces grew visibly longer. "Can Turgeneff have played the same trick as last winter?" exclaimed Belinsky.

But we all calmed him, saying that we probably arrived earlier than we were expected. "But I wrote to him that we should be here at 1 o'clock," objected Belinsky. "What can it mean? If they would only admit us into the room we could wait, but here we are scorched."

At length a boy came out of the door and we all plied him with questions. His master had gone off, he said, and the chef de cuisine was in some public house. We gave the urchin money, sent him to fetch the chef, who should let us in, and meanwhile we sat down on the steps of the terrace.

We waited long in vain. Belinsky wanted us to return, but our hired coachman refused to take us back until the horses had had a long rest. So we sat on, hungry and hot. Pannief went to the public house to see if anything eatable could be procured, but there was nothing to be had. "At last the chef made his appearance. 'Where is your master?' cried Belinsky. He did not know. 'Did your master order a dinner for us today?' insisted the critic. 'He did nothing of the kind,' was the reply. Amusement and terror were depicted on all faces. Belinsky flamed up, and, looking at us in his significant way, exclaimed: 'Turgeneff has indeed given us a banquet!'

Are We Handsomer?

"I have heard it said that, taken as a whole, people of these days are not so handsome as those of olden times," said an artist to a Washington Post reporter, "but I have a theory that they far excel in beauty of form and feature their ancestors of many hundred years ago. The only way we have to judge of such comparative merits of the people of today with those who are made known to us by tradition and history is by the means of statuary. We compare our modern men with old works of art and pronounce them inferior without taking into consideration the deception that has been practiced by the artists whose work was done for those whose form and feature they portrayed and from whom they were to look for their pay."

"It was the easiest thing in the world then, as is done now, to smooth over blemishes and defects. The art of photography will not permit such deception to so great an extent as it was formerly carried on."

"Do artists not flatter their subjects as much nowadays as was done of old?"

"In making oil paintings this is done by a great many, and that is the reason why many people will not sit for a photograph, but prefer to be represented by an artist. The photographers recognize this and do what they can to overcome it. I knew one once who, having a sitter with a nose very much out of shape, actually used putty to straighten it out, and with that improvement in his customer's appearance took the picture."

Will Exclusion Exclude the Chinese?

Sir John Bowring not only testified to this perpetual outflow of Chinese immigrants, but he paints in vivid colors the causes which lead to these results. He says: "There is probably no part of the world in which the harvests of mortality are more sweeping and destructive than in China, producing voids which require no ordinary appliances to fill up. Multitudes perish absolutely from want of the means of existence; inundations destroy towns and villages and all their inhabitants; it would not be easy to calculate the loss of life by the typhoons and hurricanes which visit the coasts of China, in which boats and junks are sometimes sacrificed by hundreds and by thousands. The late civil wars in China must have led to the loss of millions of lives. The sacrifices of human beings by executions alone are frightful."

It is such a condition of things, and such causes as these, that induce the laboring classes of Chinese to immigrate to other countries. Considering the incentive which exists in these densely populated districts to escape from the misery which marks their existence, and to seek new lands where their condition may be bettered, the dangers that threaten from such inexhaustible sources of human supply become easy of appreciation.—Willard B. Farwell in Popular Science Monthly.

Too Too.

"Been writing?"

"Yes."

"Who to?"

"Oh, dear! Why don't you speak grammatically? The idea—'Who to?' You should say 'To whom to.'—Harper's Bazar.

A Woman's Discovery.

"Another wonderful discovery has been made, and that, too, by a lady in this country. Disease fastened its clutches upon her, and for seven years she withstood its severest tests, but her vital organs were undermined and death seemed imminent. For three months she coughed incessantly and could not sleep. She bought of us a bottle of Dr. King's New Discovery for consumption, and was so much relieved on taking first dose that she slept all night, and with one bottle she was miraculously cured. Her name is Mrs. Luther Lutz." Her name is Mrs. Luther Lutz. Write W. C. Hamrick & Co. of Shelby, N. C. Get a trial bottle at Budwell & Christian's drug store.

EARLY SHAKESPEARES.

Something About the First Editions of the Great Poet's Works.

Adolph Sutro has endeavored for a long time to complete his unfinished "first four folio" editions of Shakespeare. With him this has been a labor of quiet, but uninterrupted, research. Of the first folio edition (1616) there are only five complete copies known to exist. One is in the British museum, another in the French National library, another in the National library at Munich, one in the possession of Lord Ellesmere, and the remaining one is now owned by the Baroness Burdett Coutts.

These books are now worth a king's ransom in gold; in fact, it is not to be supposed that money could purchase them from their opulent possessors. In the Sutro library this first edition was rendered almost complete yesterday by the receipt of seven plays heretofore lacking. What is now sought after to render it entire is the last leaf in the play of "Lochnor," a play which is an apocryphal one, so far as Shakespeare's authorship thereof is concerned, but which is always found in the first four editions of his works. Besides, there still remains another defect.

The original steel engraving, copied from an old portrait of Shakespeare now in the possession of the Duke of Devonshire, and found only as the frontispiece in the first edition of his works, is wanting. This is known as the "Droeshuch engraving." To procure this Mr. Sutro relies upon his ingenuity and money to purchase it from some one who has a broken set of this edition, and who will not be so likely to hoard it in the presence of a tempting price. Of these there are supposed to be quite a number among the private families in England and perhaps in the musty alcoves of second hand dealers on the continent.

The second edition (1632) was rendered complete by yesterday's contribution, save that it too is minus the last leaf of "Lochnor." The same should be said of the third edition (1664), while the fourth edition (1685), so remarkable for its width of margin, as compared with its predecessors, is exempt from any deficiency.

All these editions are alike in the table of contents, containing besides the now commonly accepted plays of Shakespeare, such dramas as "The London Prodigal," "History of Thomas, Lord Cromwell," etc., while the dedication is quaintly addressed to "the most noble and incomparable pair of brethren, the Earls of Pembroke and Montgomery."

The rent roll of Shottery Meadow is a queer little piece of bound vellum, sixteen pages, bearing date 1620-21, and which began its accounts and statement of rents about the period when the Pilgrim fathers were storm tossed on the ocean on their way to their new home. Shottery Meadow is located three miles from Stratford-on-Avon, the birthplace of Shakespeare, and the little book of parchment, parts of it well preserved, with its characters faded and obscure, showed how accounts were kept with small farmers in those days, when land was leased by the acre, dole or swath, the latter deriving its name and being measured in width by the sweep of a scythe.

The book possesses intrinsic interest for the admirers of Shakespeare, because among the tenants therein recorded, together with their allotments of land, are the names of Thomas Combe, to whom Shakespeare left his sword by will; Bartholomew Hathaway, the poet's brother-in-law, and "John Will the younger," also relatives of Shakespeare.—San Francisco Chronicle.

Hacking coughs beat a hasty retreat when A. B. C. Tonic and Expectorant are used.

Ex-Minister Phelps will locate in New Haven, Conn., soon after Christmas.

A Valuable Remedy.

A letter from S. P. Wardwell, Boston, says: "I used Clarke's Extract of Flax (Papillon) Catarrh Cure in June last for Hay Fever with great satisfaction, and find it the only thing I have seen which would allay, without irritating, the inflammation of the nostrils and throat. Its soothing and healing properties were 'marked and immediate.' Large bottle, \$1. Clarke's Flax Soap is the latest and best. Price, 25 cents. Ask for them at Johnson & Johnson's Drug Store."

Jefferson Davis' first wife was Miss Sarah, daughter of General Zachary Taylor. In less than a year the young wife died, leaving no child.

The Universal Verdict of the People Who have used Clarke's Extract of Flax (Papillon) Skin Cure award it the first and highest place as a remedial agent in all cases of Skin Diseases. Erysipelas, Eczema, Pimples, unsightly blotches, humiliating eruptions, Boils, Carbuncles, Tetters, etc., all yield to this wonderful preparation at once. Price, \$1 for a large bottle at Johnson & Johnson's Drug Store. Clarke's Flax Soap is good for the Skin. Try it. Price, 25 cents.

Two ladies, Mrs. Eliza Christman and Mrs. C. A. Rippey, have been placed on the board of trustees for the university soon to be founded at Topeka, Kan.

Bucklen's Arnica Salve.

The best salve in the world for cuts, bruises, sores, ulcers, salt rheum, fever sores, tetters, chapped hands, chilblains, corns, and all skin eruptions, and positively cures piles, or no pay required. It is guaranteed to give perfect satisfaction, or money refunded. Price 25 cents per box. For sale by Budwell & Christian.

An explosion in a brewery at Newark, N. J., flooded the streets with beer, and many persons got drunk on the liquor, which they gathered in pails and cups from the gutters.

CAN'T SLEEP NIGHTS

Is the complaint of thousands suffering from asthma, consumption, coughs, etc. Did you ever try Dr. Acker's English Remedy? It is the best preparation known for all lung troubles. Sold on a positive guarantee at 25c. and 50c. Sold by Budwell, Christian & Barbee.

David Christie Murray says there is "a certain smack of whiskey and water and a sense of late hours about Australian verse so far."

IS LIFE WORTH LIVING?

Not if you go through the world a dyspeptic. Dr. Acker's Dyspepsia Tablets are a positive cure for the worst forms of Dyspepsia, Indigestion, Flatulency and Constipation. Guaranteed and sold by Budwell, Christian & Barbee.

WE CAN AND DO

Guarantee Dr. Acker's Blood Elixir, for it has been fully demonstrated to the people of this country that it is superior to all other preparations for blood diseases. It is a positive cure for syphilis, poisoning, ulcers, eruptions and pimples. It purifies the whole system and thoroughly builds up the constitution. Sold by Budwell, Christian & Barbee.

Miss Bertha Willard Brown is the first woman who has won a State scholarship at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

A CHILD KILLED.

Another child killed by the use of opiates given in the form of soothing syrup. Why mother give their children such deadly poison is surprising when they can relieve the child of its peculiar troubles by using Dr. Acker's Baby Soother. It contains no opium or morphine. Sold by Budwell, Christian & Barbee.

Miss Susannah M. Dunklee, of Newton, Mass., was the first woman to become a bank treasurer in the United States. She has held the position for fifteen years.

A DUTY TO YOURSELF.

It is surprising that people will use a common ordinary pill when they can secure a valuable English one for the same money. Dr. Acker's English pills are a positive cure for sick-headache and all liver troubles. They are small, sweet, easily taken, and do not gripe. Sold by Budwell, Christian & Barbee.

AN ORDINANCE.

At a meeting of the council of the city of Roanoke, held December 10th, 1889, the following ordinance was adopted:

Be it ordained by the council of the city of Roanoke, upon the petition of the Roanoke and Southern Railway company, by its president, filed on this 3rd day of December, 1889,

1. That the sergeant and judges of election for the said city of Roanoke do open a poll at the several voting precincts of said city, on Tuesday, the 28th day of January, 1890, and take the sense of the freehold voters on the question, whether the said council shall be authorized, in the name of and for the use of the city, to cause to be issued, bonds to the amount not exceeding one hundred thousand dollars for the purpose of making a second and further subscription to the capital stock of the Roanoke and Southern Railway company.

2. The said election shall be held and the authority to issue bonds as Mr. make said subscription shall be upon the following terms and conditions, namely:

I. The said council may subscribe for the stock of said company to the amount of one hundred thousand dollars; provided, that in doing so the aggregate debt of the city shall not exceed ten per centum of the assessed value of the property, real and personal, within the city limits.

II. That the said company shall within ninety days after the said subscription shall be made, commence to construct its line of road at its termini in said city of Roanoke, or within one mile of the city limits, and shall prosecute the same in a bonafide manner with all reasonable diligence to its completion.

III. The bonds of the city of Roanoke shall bear 6 per cent. interest and shall be redeemable in thirty years, and shall be issued and delivered to a trustee, to be agreed upon between the council of the city of Roanoke and the president of the Roanoke and Southern railway. The said trustee upon the certificate of the chief engineer of said railway of the completion of the grading of such and every mile of said road from Roanoke city southward shall deliver to said railway the bonds of said city to the amount of \$5,000 and upon like certificate of the engineer for each and every mile of said road when the superstructure is completed, and ready for operation, the said trustee shall deliver to said railway bonds to the amount of \$5,000 per mile until the entire sum of \$100,000 provided for in this ordinance shall be delivered.

Upon the delivery of the bonds of the said trustee to the railway company the said company shall deliver to the said trustee certificates of stock in said railway to the full amount of said bonds.

IV. The subscription when made by the city council shall be upon the terms and conditions herein set forth, and should the said company fail to comply with said terms and conditions, then, and in that event, the said subscription, at the option of said city, shall be void.

3. The election shall be held and conducted in the manner provided for under section 1243 and 1244 of the code of Virginia, and the question submitted shall be determined under the provisions of section 30, chapter V, of the charter of said city.

4. The sergeant shall cause a certified copy of this ordinance to be published in the daily papers of this city, and shall post a copy thereof at each of the voting places for thirty days previous to the day of election.

A copy—teste.

GEO. L. BENNETT, Clerk.

In obedience to the foregoing order, notice is hereby given that the polls will be opened at the several voting precincts of the city of Roanoke at sunrise on

TUESDAY, JAN. 28, 1890

for a vote to be taken as specified in said law.

C. W. THOMAS, Sergeant.

Roanoke, December 13th, 1889.

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8 to 10 a. m., 12 to 1 p. m., 3 to 4.30 p. m., 7.30 to 10 p. m.

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References—Prof. Jas. H. Harris, Baltimore, Md.; Dr. Chas. L. Steele, Richmond, Va.; Dr. Leigh Buckner, Roanoke.

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ARCHITECT.

Receiveable Royal Institute of fine arts and architecture. In view of our long experience, a society, to whom has been delegated in a measure the care of disabled in our city, we desire to press the importance of this institution upon our citizens, and to them to provide the necessary means, by which this hospital can be maintained.

—GAVE OVERS at Walter P. Huff & Co's

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—SHORT NOTICE.